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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8181
INFO RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0085
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0917
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000938

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/11/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [IZ](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN NTM-I UNLIKELY

REF: STATE 73794

Classified By: PolMinCouns Scott Bellard, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) In response to reftel demarche, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Deputy Director for Defence and Security Relations Anne Burgess promised to float our request for support to NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) through the Canadian interagency (septel). Burgess remarked, however, that she did not expect the Canadian government to change its current policy, which only permits military personnel on exchange positions with U.S. forces to deploy to Iraq.

¶2. (C) Comment: Canada has provided over \$700 million available to Iraq in aid and debt forgiveness but its resources are already overstretched trying to meet critical NATO-ISAF operational, training, and mentoring requirements in Afghanistan, which remains the top foreign policy priority for the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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